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(54) **Transaction coordination including time contracts**

(57) Distributed computing systems having mechanisms for efficiently coordinating transactions between nodes in the system are provided. One or more nodes may negotiate maximum time periods in which to communicate with each other or a transaction coordinator.

A node is determined to be non-responsive when the time since a last communication exceeds the maximum time period. The maximum time period may include an adjustment for the latency of at least a portion of the distributed computing system.

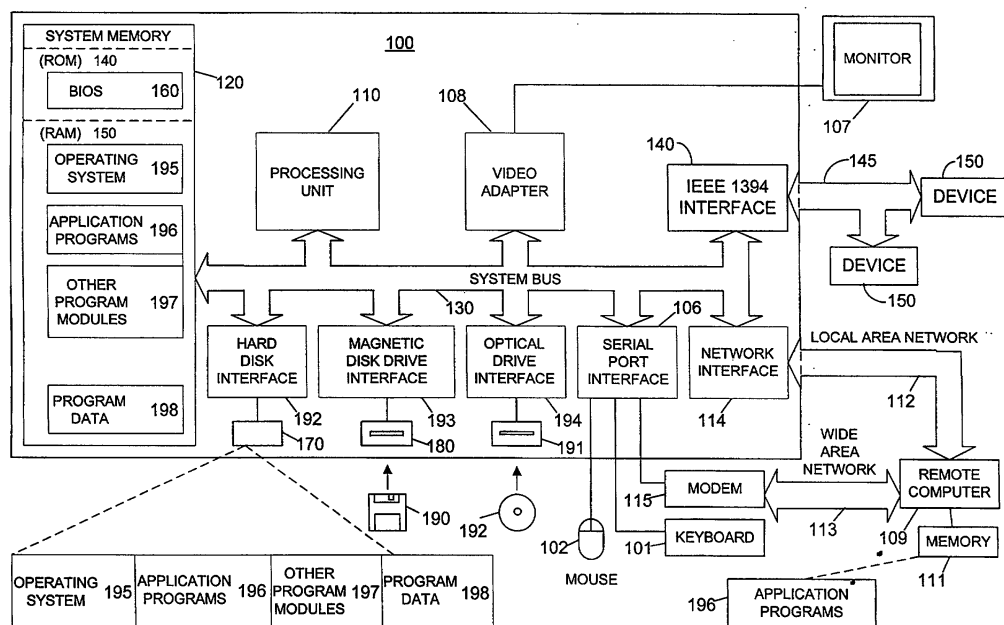


Figure 1



European Patent  
Office

# EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number  
EP 02 02 3018

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
X	US 6 178 449 B1 (FORMAN RON FRANK ET AL) 23 January 2001 (2001-01-23)	1,6,7, 9-11, 15-17	H04L29/08 H04L29/12
A	* column 7, lines 3-10; claim 1; figure 7 * * column 8, lines 16-19 * * column 6, lines 53-65 * -----	2-5,8, 12-14	
A	US 6 111 886 A (STEWART ET AL) 29 August 2000 (2000-08-29) * abstract * * column 7, lines 43-48 * * column 8, lines 7-22 * * column 10, lines 38-42 * -----	1-3, 11-14	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)
			H04L G06F
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search <b>The Hague</b>		Date of completion of the search <b>30 May 2005</b>	Examiner <b>Manea, A</b>
<p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document</p> <p>T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons ..... &amp; : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			

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EPO FORM 1503 03/82 (P04C01)

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT  
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

EP 02 02 3018

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report.  
The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on  
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30-05-2005

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